Kṛṣṇa-karuṇa-rasa-sāgara

An ocean of the nectar of Krishna's mercy

eko 'pi san bahudhā yo 'vabhāti
līlā-rasena praṇayī-janānām
ānanda-kandaḥ paramātma-rūpo
govinda ādi-puruṣaḥ sa jīyāt

Although He is one, He manifests in many forms—for the delight of His beloved devotees. Glory to Govinda, the original Personality, the source of bliss and the Supreme Soul!

kṛṣṇaṃ vande jagadīśaṃ sundaraṃ parameśvaram
sarva-bhūta-hite ratam ānandaṃ paramaṃ padam

I worship Krishna, the Lord of the universe, the beautiful Supreme Lord, who is the highest abode of bliss and whose heart is devoted to the welfare of all beings.

go-vatsalāya namaste
sarva-bhūta-dayā-pare
bhakta-vātsalya-sārāya
kṛṣṇāya paramātmane

Obeisances to Krishna, the Supreme Soul, who is affectionate to cows and supremely compassionate to all living beings, whose essence is loving devotion to His devotees.

yasya prema-vaśe kṛṣṇo

vaśī-bhūto janārdanaḥ
sa eva sarva-lokeśaḥ
karuṇā-sindhu-rūpadhṛk

Krishna, Janardana, is under the control of His devotees' love. This Lord of all worlds appears as an ocean of compassion.

rūpa-veśa-vilāsī govindaḥ
sarva-saundarya-mūla-svarūpaḥ
bhakta-vāñchita-pūrti-tatparaḥ
līlayā nara-ceṣṭāṁ karoti

Govinda, the source of all beauty, enjoys pastimes in various forms and garments. Eager to fulfill the desires of His devotees, He playfully imitates human behavior.

hāsya-līlā-rasajña īśvaraḥ
sarva-bhūta-hṛdayeṣu saṁsthitaḥ
prema-bhakti-rasiko janārdanaḥ
nanda-nandana-mukunda-mādhavaḥ

The Lord, who is the beloved son of Nanda and is known as Mukunda and Madhava, is expert in playful pastimes. He resides in the hearts of all beings and relishes the nectar of loving devotion.

na veda kaścid bhagavaṁś cikīrṣitaṁ
tavehamānasya nṛṇāṁ viḍambanam

O Lord, no one can understand Your true intentions. You behave like an ordinary man, bewildering everyone.

bhakta-vātsalya-rūpo 'yaṁ
bhaktānāṁ hṛdayaṁ-gamaḥ
līlayā mānuṣaṁ vetthi
svayaṁ brahma sanātanam

He is the very form of affection for His devotees, entering their hearts. Though He is the eternal Absolute Truth, the original Lord, as His pastime, He assumes a human form.

chādma-veśena tiṣṭhati
purṇa-brahma sanātanaḥ
līlā-manuṣyatāṃ kṛtvā
mohayaty-akhilaṃ jagat

The original Lord, the eternal Absolute Truth, conceals His nature. Performing pastimes in a human form, He enchants the entire world.

anugrahasya kāṣṭhāṃ vā bhājanībhūta-dehinām
yad dheti bhagavān kṛṣṇas tatraivāvatatāra ha

Appearing on Earth, in Vraja, Lord Krishna displayed the highest degree of His mercy toward all conditioned souls.

līlayā jagad-ānandaṃ

kṛṣṇo janayate sadā
gopālako yathā bālo
tathā sarveśvaro hariḥ

Krishna always brings bliss to the world through His pastimes. He is both a cowherd boy, the protector of cows, and the Lord of all existence.

gopālasya yad aiśvaryaṁ
prakṛtir vaśa-vartinī
tat sarvaṁ līlayā guptaṁ
premṇā bandhayate janān

All the opulence of Gopala, the master of material nature, is concealed by His pastimes, and only through pure love does He bind people's hearts.

sva-prabhutvaṁ nijādhīna-
janaikānta-sukhāya ca
gopayitvā sva-māyayā
līlayā carati bhuvi

Concealing His supremacy and acting solely for the happiness of His dependent devotees, appearing as a cowherd boy by His internal energy Yogamaya, He playfully wanders in the land of Vraja.

na jānanti vrajavāsino
ye kṛṣṇasya mahimānam

kevalaṃ prema-bandhena
baddho bhāti sa nandanaḥ

The residents of Vraja do not know Krishna's greatness: bound by love, they see Him only as the son of Nanda Maharaja.

kalā-nipuṇo mādhavaḥ
sarva-vidyā-viśāradaḥ
bhakta-saṅga-sukha-prītaḥ
līlayā mugdha-ceṣṭitaḥ

Madhava, skilled in all forms of art and knowledgeable in all sciences, delights in the company of His devotees and in His pastimes behaves with great simplicity and sincerity.

gīta-mādhurya-sāgaro hariḥ
sarva-śruti-mano-harāṅga-dhṛk
bhakta-saṅga-sukha-vardhanecchayā
mānuṣīṁ gatim anuvartate

Hari is an ocean of sweet singing, His form captivating all ears and minds. Wishing to increase the joy of His devotees, He imitates human behavior.

māyayādīśa bhagavān
kṛṣṇaḥ sarveśvaraḥ prabhuḥ
bhakta-prema-vaśīkṛto
lokavat ācaranti hi

The master of Maya, Lord Krishna, the Lord of all lords, conquered by His devotees' love, behaves like an ordinary person.

śrī kṛṣṇo bhagavān svayaṁ
prema-vaśo bhakta-vatsalaḥ
yo līlayā māyayā caiva
bhaktaiḥ saha krīḍati sarvadā

Sri Krishna, the original Supreme Personality of Godhead, very merciful to His devotees and subdued by their love, always plays with them, enacting His pastimes through His spiritual energy.

yo 'yaṁ tavāti-priyaḥ sakhā
viśvambharo 'pi līlayā
kṣudhārtavat prīti-karo
devakyāṁ vasudeva-je

Though He is the maintainer of all worlds, the son of Vasudeva and Devaki playfully acts like a hungry boy to intensify their love.

prema-bandhana-baddho 'pi
bhaktānāṃ vaśagaḥ prabhuḥ
sva-māhātmyaṃ tiraskṛtya
sakhyam eva pradarśayati

The Lord, bound by the ropes of love, submits to His devotees. Concealing His majesty, He displays only pure friendship.

sarva-sakhyāṁ paraṁ tattvaṁ
kṛṣṇo 'pi nava-kānanaḥ
nityaṁ hṛdyāmṛtenāyaṁ
snigdhān pāti yathā pitā

In all friendships, the supreme truth is Krishna, appearing as a young cowherd boy in Vrindavan. Forever nourishing His devotees' hearts with nectar, He protects them like a loving father.

dolāyamānaḥ kadamba-śākhāyāṁ
prīti-pūrṇair netrair īkṣyate gopaiḥ
sarva-rakṣako 'pi rakṣyatāṁ prāptaḥ
prema-vaśaḥ paramātmā līlayā

Though He is the Supreme Soul and protector of all, subdued by love, He allows Himself to be protected, swinging on a kadamba branch while the cowherd boys gaze at Him with loving eyes.

sakhībhiḥ sahitaḥ kṛṣṇo
gṛhaṃ gacchati śāyitum
jagad-īśo 'pi bālena
sahāyaiḥ krīḍate sadā

Krishna, accompanied by His friends, goes home to sleep. Though He is the Lord of the universe, He always plays with the cowherd boys.

bhojanā-prīti-rasena saṁyutaṁ
prema-bhakti-paripūrṇa-mānasaḥ
sevakair vraja-janair parivṛtaḥ
bhojayaty akhila-loka-nāyakaḥ

The Lord of all worlds, filled with love and devotion, relishes the joy of eating together, happily dining while surrounded by His servants, the people of Vraja, whose hearts overflow with pure devotion.

yaśodāyāḥ kuca-nālābhyām
āliṅgito jagat-patiḥ
māyayā nṛpa-veṣo 'yaṁ
nṛṇāṁ bhaktiṁ vidhitsati

Embraced by Mother Yashoda, the Lord of the universe, through His spiritual energy, assumes a human form to inspire devotion in people's hearts.

bāla-rūpeṇa mohayan
jagad-dhiṣṭhāyinīṁ priyām
īśvaraḥ śiśu-līlābhir
ānandayati bhaktagān

Enchanting His beloved Yashoda with His childlike form, the Lord delights His devotees with His infant pastimes.

yaśodā-prema-bandhena
baddho 'py acyuta-nandanaḥ
jagad-guroḥ parā bhaktiḥ
sneha-pāśair nayaty amūn

Bound by Yashoda's love, the son of Nanda always gives her joy. Thus, displaying supreme devotion, the teacher of the world attracts all beings with ropes of affection.

svayaṁ viṣṇur jagad-pālo
yaśodayā pariśriyate
kim adbhutaṁ tavādbhutāt
sneha-śraddhā-vaśaṃ gataḥ

Vishnu Himself, the protector of the universe, is cared for by Yashoda. What is so surprising in this, O wondrous Lord? For You are conquered by pure, faithful love!

sevya-sevaka-bhāvaṁ tyaktvā
bhakta-vatsala-svabhāvaḥ
prema-vaśyo bhagavān kṛṣṇaḥ
gopī-jana-priya-kāryeṣu

Lord Krishna, affectionate to His devotees, abandons the position of the worshiped and becomes the servant. Subdued by love, He joyfully fulfills the desires of the gopis.

yaḥ svecchayā viśvaṁ idaṁ sṛjaty-
avaty-atti na sajjate yasmin
bhāva-svabhāva-hṛdayaḥ sa īśvaraḥ
śrīyo 'ṅga-saṅgād vraja-sundarīṣu

The Supreme Lord freely creates, maintains, and annihilates the cosmic manifestation, remaining unattached. Yet when the beautiful maidens of Vraja embrace Him, His heart melts with love.

gopīnāṃ patir akhila-jagad-īśvaro 'pi
sāndra-prema-rasa-vasa-gāḥ kīdṛśaḥ kṛpāluḥ
sevāṁ svīkurute suhṛdāṁ sakṛd api
tac-cittāḥ kim api na vijānanti tad-viceṣṭitam

Though He is the supreme ruler of all worlds, He becomes the husband of simple cowherd maidens. How infinitely merciful is this Lord, Who surrenders to the incomparable sweetness of their love! He accepts the service of His dear friends at once, though their hearts, absorbed in Him, do not understand the divinity of His actions.

aho bhāgyam aho bhāgyaṁ
nanda-gopa-vrajaukasām
yan-mitraṁ paramānandaṁ
pūrṇaṁ brahma sanātanam

Ah, how greatly fortunate are Nanda Mahārāja, the cowherd men and all the other inhabitants of Vraja, whose eternal friend is Krishna, the source of supreme bliss, the complete Absolute Truth!

aho bhāgyaṁ aho bhāgyaṁ
nanda-gopa-vrajaukasām
yat kṛṣṇo bhagavān devo
mukundaḥ saha vikrīḍan

Ah, how greatly fortunate are Nanda Mahārāja, the cowherd men and all the other inhabitants of Vraja! Krishna, the Supreme Lord, Mukunda, plays with them!

nāhaṁ tiṣṭhāmi vaikuṇṭhe
yoginām hṛdayeṣu vā
tatra tiṣṭhāmi nārada
yatra gāyanti mad-bhaktāḥ

"I do not reside in Vaikuntha nor in the hearts of yogis. I reside, O Narada, where My devotees sing My glories."

patraṁ puṣpaṁ phalaṁ toyaṁ
yo me bhaktyā prayacchati
tad ahaṁ bhakty-upahṛtam
aśnāmi prayatātmanaḥ

"If one offers Me with devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or water, I will accept that offering made with love."

samo 'haṁ sarva-bhūteṣu
na me dveṣyo 'sti na priyaḥ
ye bhajanti tu māṁ bhaktyā
mayi te teṣu cāpy aham

"I am equal to all beings; no one is hateful or dear to Me. But those who worship Me with devotion are in Me, and I am in them."

aho bakī yaṁ stana-kāla-kūṭaṁ
jighāṁsayāpāyayad apy asādhvī
lebhe gatiṁ dhātry-ucitāṁ tato 'nyaṁ
kaṁ vā dayāluṁ śaraṇaṁ vrajema

O, where else can one find a protector more merciful than He, who granted the position of a mother even to the wicked Putana, though she smeared her breast with poison to kill Him!

sarveṣām apy aghavatām
idam eva suniṣkṛtam
nāma-vyāharaṇaṁ viṣṇor
yatas tad-viṣayā matiḥ

For even the most sinful, the best purification is simply to chant Vishnu's name, for the Lord immediately turns His attention to such a person.

anugrahāya bhaktānāṁ
mānuṣaṁ deham āsthitaḥ
bhajate tādṛśīḥ krīḍa
yāḥ śrutvā tat-paro bhavet

To bestow mercy upon His devotees, the Lord assumes a human form and performs such pastimes that whoever hears of them becomes devoted to Him.

sāndra-premā rasa-mayaḥ
sadā śrī-mukhendu-prakāśaḥ
śrī-kṛṣṇas tu bhajatāṁ bhakti
mānānāṁ yāti sākṣāt

Sri Krishna, always filled with intense, sweet love, whose beautiful face shines like the moon, personally appears before those who worship Him with devotion.

akṛtrimaṁ karuṇayā
premaṇā bhakta-vatsalam
kṛṣṇaṁ varṇaya loke 'smin
kaḥ samāno 'sti mādhavaḥ

Who in this world can compare to Madhava, Krishna, whose love for His devotees is natural, full of mercy, and genuine?

ahaṁ bhakta-parādhīno
hy asvatantra iva dvija

sādhubhir grasta-hṛdayo
bhaktair bhakta-jana-priyaḥ

"I am entirely under the control of My devotees. I am not at all independent. My heart is conquered by My saintly devotees, free from material desires. Not only My devotees, but even those devoted to My devotees are dear to Me."

sādhavo hṛdayaṁ mahyaṁ
sādhūnāṁ hṛdayaṁ tv aham
mad-anyat te na jānanti
nāhaṁ tebhyo manāg api

"Pure devotees are always in My heart, and I am always in the hearts of My pure devotees. They know nothing but Me, and I know nothing but them."

man-manā bhava mad-bhakto
mad-yājī māṁ namaskuru
mām evaiṣyasi satyaṁ te
pratijāne priyo 'si me

"Fix your mind on Me, become My devotee, worship Me, and offer obeisances to Me. Thus you will certainly come to Me. I promise you this, for you are My dear friend."

sarva-dharmān parityajya
mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja
ahaṁ tvāṁ sarva-pāpebhyo

mokṣayiṣyāmi mā śucaḥ

"Abandon all varieties of religion and surrender unto Me alone. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear."

sakṛd eva prapanno yas
tavāsmīti ca yācate
abhayaṁ sarvadā tasmai
dadāmy etad vrataṁ mama

"This is My vow: If one sincerely surrenders to Me even once, saying, 'My dear Lord, from this day I am Yours,' I will immediately free him from all fear, and from that moment, he will always be safe."

śrī-kṛṣṇaḥ śaraṇaṁ śaraṇyaḥ
śaraṇāgata-pālakaḥ
sarva-lokaika-nāthaḥ
śrī-kṛṣṇaḥ śaraṇaṁ mama

Sri Krishna is the refuge, worthy of being refuge, and the protector of all surrendered souls. He is the sole master of all worlds. Sri Krishna is my refuge.

sarvātmā sarva-saṁsthānaḥ
sarvātmaiva sanātanaḥ
sa eva bāla-līlābhir
vraje ramati nitya-dṛk

He is the Supreme Soul of all, all-pervading and eternal. Yet He is always seen in Vraja, enjoying His childhood pastimes.

śyāmasundara-śikhāmaṇi-sundarāṅga-
premānanda-rasika-priya-nāma-sakhyam
āsvādayan vraja-jane nijagīta-gītam
tvaṁ naḥ prabho bhava gatir bhava bandhu-varyaḥ

O Shyamasundara, the crown jewel among all beautiful personalities, relishing the love and friendship of those who cherish Your names, delighting in Your own songs among the people of Vraja—O Lord, be our destination and our greatest friend!

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